



The passing of Brother Raphael Mascari

LUNA SCHAFFER
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

On Jan. 22, Lewis University suffered the great loss of one of the beloved brothers, Brother Raphael Mascari.

Born to Anna and Michael James Mascari on Jan. 14, 1939, in Chicago, IL, Br. Raphael attended St. Mel High School in Chicago before transferring to a juniorate in 1953 – a high school for those looking to become a Brother. Later on, he completed his novitiate in Glencoe, Mo., made his first vows in 1957, and his perpetual profession in 1963. To finalize his studies before he became a professor, Br. Raphael obtained his Bachelor's of Arts and Master's in Education from St. Mary's College (now university) in Winona, Minn.

Br. Raphael arrived at Lewis in 1971 during his 30s and served various roles during his time at the University. He started as a professor in the mathematics/

computer science department and later on progressed to serving as the chair of the department. He proceeded to become the Assistant Dean and the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, supervising over forty different departments.

Br. James Gaffney, the previous Lewis president for 28 years, says Br. Raphael "was a very dedicated and very intellectual Christian Brother. He was very understanding of higher education, very approachable to students and very respected by the faculty."

During his time at Lewis, Br. Raphael was a big fan of college sports, often seen attending sporting events and cheering on our student-athletes.

He also spoke numerous times at the Br. David Delahanty Awards, an annual ceremony where high-academic achieving athletes are recognized. Br. James shared that Br. Raphael often spoke because "He was

an excellent speaker." Not only that, but he was appointed as athletic representative – therefore if the President was unable to attend, Br. Raphael would take his place.

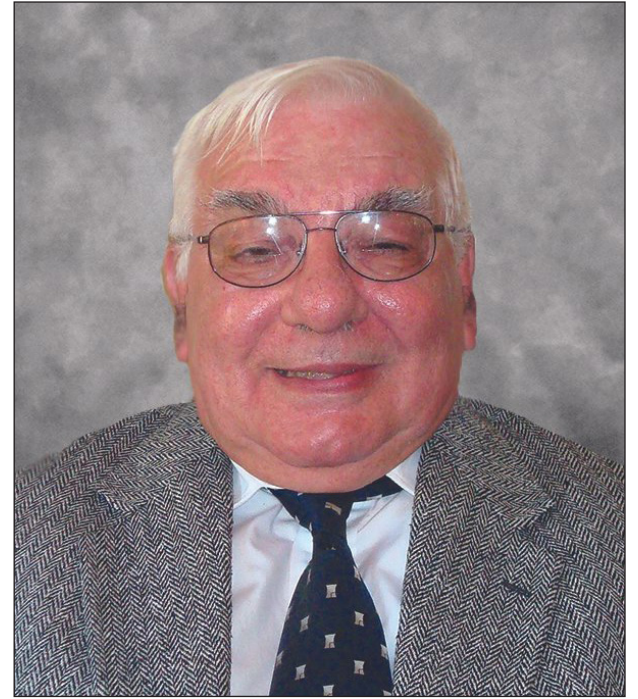
With his love for teaching, he continued his role as a professor for over 50 years, but once his health started to deteriorate, he was limited to the amount of classes in which he was able to teach. He kept teaching up until the point when his doctors suggested he end his teaching career to protect his health and wellbeing.

Once in retirement, Br. Raphael established himself in Franciscan Village, located in Lemont, Ill. Although he was done teaching, he never stopped learning. Br. James noted that when he visited Br. Raphael, there was always a pile of 15-20 books about mathematics within reach.

"He was very proud of the progress the University made from 50 years ago to today, and

it wasn't about him, it was about all of us together," said Br. James. "He could encourage family members, alumni, children and so forth to come to the University with confidence that it would be a very caring environment, family-like and intellectually challenging. It would set them up for success in life, and career."

As a beloved member of Lewis University, Br. Raphael left a legacy that he was proud to be part



cbmidwest.org

of. He was a part of a community that provided the university with the tools needed to become what it is today, to many, a place to call home.

Best Buddies and their events

LUNA SCHAFFER
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Since its inception in 1997, Best Buddies has left an indelible mark on the Lewis University community, serving as a beacon of inclusion and support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities worldwide.

On Feb. 22, Lewis will host "Spread the Word for Inclusion," a national Best Buddies event held annually. This event serves as a platform for students to spend time with individuals directly affected by intellectual disabilities, fostering empathy and understanding within the community. This year, the Student Senate will collaborate with Best Buddies to distribute inclusion-themed bracelets across campus, amplifying the message of acceptance and unity.

Dedicated to addressing the social, physical and economic isolation faced by over 200 million individuals with intellectual disabilities, Best Buddies operates as a nonprofit organization committed to fostering a global volunteer movement. Their mission promotes the cul-

tivation of one-on-one friendships, integrated employment opportunities, development of leadership skills and advocacy for inclusive living for these individuals.

According to their website, their programs "Empower the special abilities of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy and communication skills, and feel valued by society."

Best Buddies is committed to a variety of individuals with IDD, which include but are not limited to people with Down syndrome, autism, Fragile X, Williams syndrome, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and other undiagnosed disabilities.

Another event, the Special Olympics, scheduled for March 21, is expected to be supported by Lewis student volunteers. They will assist in various sporting activities tailored to participants with intellectual disabilities. Spearheaded by the Student Athlete Advising Com-

mittee, this event underscores the university's commitment to inclusivity and support for all members of the community.

Rounding out the spring semester calendar is the "Occupational Therapy Fun" event on April 18, hosted by Best Buddies in collaboration with the occupational therapy graduate program. This event promises an array of engaging activities centered around its thematic focus, providing valuable opportunities for interaction and skill-building.

Current President of the Best Buddies Organization at Lewis University, Makayla Brady, states "Best Buddies is important as it makes the Buddies (individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities) feel welcome in the Lewis community, creates long-lasting friendships and increases social and emotional support. Every person who joins Best Buddies is changing the world, one buddy at a time."

Bekkah Schmick, a senior psychology major with a minor in social work, reflects on her longstanding involvement with Best Buddies dating back to her high school years. She attests



OLIVIA BRZEK / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

to the organization's profound impact on fostering community cohesion, particularly highlighting the joy and sense of community engendered by the Special Olympics event. "We all love this event because it really feels like so many members of the community are involved, and it is such a fun experience."

The legacy of Best Buddies at Lewis stands as a testament to

the power of inclusion, empathy, and community support. As the organization continues to host events like "Spread the Word for Inclusion," the Special Olympics and the "Occupational Therapy Fun" event, the Lewis University community reaffirms its commitment to inclusivity and support for all members.

The controversial Taylor Swift NFL jacket

IRENA ILIC
NEWS EDITOR

It's just a jacket. It's just a jacket until Taylor Swift wears it. Swift's impact has expanded beyond the music industry and into the NFL. And now her more recent impact has ignited a discussion concerning potential copyright infringements.

Following the publicity of her relationship with Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, Taylor Swift has appeared at many Chiefs' home games to support her partner. She consistently arrives in fashionable outfits that her fans love, including a jacket many believed Nike created specifically for her. In reality, however, neither Nike nor NFL apparel teams had anything to do with the jacket which soon went viral after Swift was spotted wearing it.

The jacket was created by Kristin Juszcyk, wife of Kyle Juszcyk the current San Francisco 49ers fullback. Juszcyk uses thrifted NFL jerseys, t-shirts, blankets, pillows and other merchandise to create her clothing line. She has crafted numerous pieces for wives or girlfriends of football players including her latest client Swift.

Controversy occurred, however, when confusion arose regarding the manufacturing of the product. Juszcyk's designs include large imprints of

patented logos. In the case of Swift's Chiefs jacket, the item contains a large Nike logo on the sleeve making it appear that the clothing item was created by Nike. This sparked a debate over whether Juszcyk was infringing on Nike's intellectual property rights. Logos are protected by trademarks and using them without permission is a violation of trademark law. Furthermore, creating a false impression of affiliation, association, sponsorship or approval by a brand is illegal if that is not the case with an upcycled product. In order to establish infringement, a company must show that the violator is using the same or similar trademark in commerce without the owner's consent and that the infringement is causing confusion among consumers.

Nike has previously pursued legal action against creators associated with celebrities for using their logo. In 2021, Nike sued MSCHF, a small Brooklyn company, after it launched modified Nike Air Max 97's in collaboration with singer Lil Nas X. The company did not work with Nike on the shoes nor did they receive Nike's approval for use of the shoe. The lawsuit concluded after MSCHF agreed to call back the shoes as well as offer a buy-back option for previously illegally released Nike shoes as well.

Discussion around a potential lawsuit against Juszcyk by Nike for these violations resulted in the NFL coming to her rescue. On Feb. 1, the NFL signed a licensing agreement with Juszcyk officially allowing her to use NFL logos in men's and women's apparel. The contract could be the start of new sports fashion for women across all sports in the U.S. Swift's Chiefs jacket has ignited social media pages with women commenting how they would like to see more clothing choices such as the ones Juszcyk made instead of the pink sparkly shirts the NFL currently has to offer.

Taylor Swift fan and graduate chemistry student, Kaitlyn Palmer comments on the issue.

"I think what Kristin [Juszcyk] is doing with making these custom jackets is great. It's honestly a bad look for Nike to come after the girl who is finally making fashionable sportswear for women that isn't an out-of-date bedazzled tee or odd fitting jersey. They didn't have a problem until Taylor wore them, but why does it take a big celebrity wearing her designs for Nike to finally decide they are invested in women's fan-wear?"

Juszcyk's upcycling, however, has prompted questions about the legality of upcycling clothing in general. Sellers on platforms such as Etsy often create products out of upcycled



NFL.COM

Swift and Mahomes posing with their custom made jackets by Juszcyk.

clothing but have to be careful what type of product they sell due to trademark infringement. The same goes for owners with Cricuts, the computer controlled cutting machine many home upcyclers use to create their clothing or other crafts. Allowing Juszcyk to use trademarked items but not Etsy shop owners or Cricut users creates a double standard.

With her new NFL licensing agreement, Juszcyk is cleared to continue making custom pieces. With clients like Brittany Mahomes, wife of Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes and US Olympic gymnast Simon Biles, married to the Green Bay Packers Jonathan Owens, her business is just getting started.

PREVIOUS TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT EXAMPLES

CHANEL INC. V. SHIVER + DUKE LLC

REPURPOSING OF AUTHENTIC CHANEL BUTTONS INTO COSTUME JEWELRY



HAMILTON & SWATCH V. VOLTRIC WATCH

OVER TAKING VINTAGE HAMILTONS AND REFURBISHING AND REPURPOSING THEM



GUCCI V. GUESS

GUCCI CLAIMED THAT GUESS USED A LOGO AND DIAMOND PATTERN THAT INFRINGED ITS TRADEMARK DUE TO EXTREME SIMILARITY



ROLEX V. LACALIFORNIENNE

UPCYCLED WATCHES



LOUIS VUITTON MALLETIER S.A.S. V. SANDRA LING DESIGNS, INC.

ALTERING ORIGINAL LOUIS VUITTON PRODUCTS BY ADDING MATERIAL ADDITIONS TO THE ORIGINAL PRODUCT



YVES SAINT LAURENT V. CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN

YVES SAINT LAURENT WAS ACCUSED OF STEALING THE ICONIC LOUBOUTIN RED SOLE TRADEMARK



VALENTINO AND AMAZON V. COUNTERFEIT SELLERS

VALENTINO SUED AMAZON COUNTERFEIT SELLERS FOR THE SALE OF VALENTINO'S COUNTERFEIT GARAVANI ROCKSTUD SHOE

OLIVIA BRZEK / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

OPINIONS

Super Bowl: For sports or entertainment?

LILY COOKE
CO-OPINIONS EDITOR

Super Bowl Sunday is one of the biggest sporting events on national television. Many people genuinely watch it for the game, but others watch the Super Bowl solely for entertainment purposes. Whether it's for the commercials, the halftime show or spotting celebrities in the crowd, there are plenty of other reasons to watch the Super Bowl besides football.

The commercials aired during the Super Bowl are nothing like ordinary ads. Instead, they tend to be more attention grabbing and creative. This is due to the fact that the Super Bowl has over 100 million viewers each year, a prime time for companies to spread brand awareness.

However, these commercials are not cheap. This year, a 30-second commercial cost seven million dollars. The bigger brands, such as Pepsi or Nike, most likely will go over

that 30-second time slot and have a higher budget. By having that higher budget, they can include celebrities and better elements that could potentially be more entertaining than smaller companies.

But, the Super Bowl halftime show is what grabs the most attention. The show is usually dramatic, over the top and features big stars. These headliners do not get paid, but their performance is fantastic publicity. Last year Rihanna performed live for the first time in seven years. It was the perfect opportunity for her to come back into the spotlight.

This year's performer was Usher, an artist who has not been talked about in several past years, but the halftime show was the perfect way for him to get back in the game. As soon as he was announced as the Super Bowl performer, social media blew up. The publicity before, during and after the performance helped make his music

relevant again. People were posting videos guessing how he would begin the show, wondering if Justin Bieber would join him on stage, or what songs would be sung. Bieber fans may have been disappointed, but the show did include Alicia Keys, Lil Jon, Ludacris, Jermaine Dupri, Will.i.am, an army of dancers and Sin City with a marching band.

Along with the celebrity halftime show, there are often celebrities in the crowd. For example, Paul Rudd was spotted this year as well as Ice Spice, Blake Lively, Beyonce, Jay Z, Lady Gaga, Post Malone and so many others. Of course, one can't forget America's sweetheart Taylor Swift supporting her NFL Chiefs-star boyfriend, Travis Kelce.

Swift and Kelce have been all over the media all around the world, blowing up the NFL and creating more revenue for the league than ever before. Swift even flew halfway across the world from Japan to attend the

game in Vegas.

Personally, I prefer watching the Super Bowl for the entertainment aspect. Football is only entertaining to a certain point. With so many rules and regulations it is hard to follow. I have to admit that it is fun to see how players celebrate touchdowns and the big win.

Usher's halftime show was entertaining, but it didn't top Coldplay, Beyonce and Bruno Mars back in 2016. All of the guests were fun to watch perform and hearing all of the throwback songs was definitely refreshing.

For years, the Super Bowl has been something that the whole country looks forward to. Is there a correct reason to watch the Super Bowl? No, but there are so many reasons why you should watch it, even if it's not for football itself. With the game in the rearview mirror, viewers will wait for the NFL to create the next script for the 2024-25 season.

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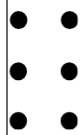
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The risk of extended lifespans

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The number of centenarians, people who live to 100 years old, has steadily increased and is projected to increase seven-fold by the year 2060. Living longer opens the door to additional problems that we are not yet prepared to face, fundamentally shaking our beliefs about healthcare, personal finance and retirement, as well as politics. The preparation for this oncoming age-related population growth is an issue that must be addressed ahead of time prior to it becoming an even larger issue.

Life expectancy measures the average length of time of a human life which, currently in the U.S., equals to about 75 years of age. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by 2060, the U.S. life expectancy is expected to reach an all-time high of approximately 86 years. Advancements in medical research, lifestyle adaptations and improved nutrition are all factors that contribute to the ever-growing expectancy figures.

Longer life expectancies open the door to a myriad of healthcare challenges that we should start preparing for, such as specific medical needs like chronic conditions or end-of-life care. An older population doesn't

necessarily mean a healthier population, which is why we should take a proactive approach and attempt to improve the health of the aging population sooner rather than later. Health-based campaigns for the elderly that promote healthy aging through exercise or proper nutrition are imperative. Additionally, it would be critical to invest in improving the healthcare infrastructure for the aging population to ensure these services are provided.

Although living a longer life sounds sensational, and on paper it really is, it is important to look at the bigger picture and see the impact of a longer life. Longer life expectancies pose new challenges for traditional working norms such as strains on social security and other welfare programs.

Preparing for longer life expectancies is also going to require sufficient aid from governmental resources. Retirement programs would likely need to be adapted or even fundamentally restructured around an aging population. Ensuring long-term financial support or the introduction of flexible retirement models so that people can still enjoy their extended golden years.

Although it is impossible to perfectly prepare for a future with uncertainties, look at other

countries with longer life expectancies and take notes. The Japanese government, which is home to one of the longest life expectancies at 84, has integrated a system that is based on caring for an aging population labeled the Community-Based Integrated Care System. In this system, the government will help implement programs such as senior centers, congregate meal sites, and personalized care assistance and transportation.

In the pursuit of preparing for the ever-growing life expectancy, valid concerns regarding the impact of these changes are often brought up. Skeptics may argue that the resources would be better used elsewhere, or that the economic repercussions of these actions may be more detrimental to an already distressed system. However, a healthier, longer working population could likely provide support for these changes.

With life expectancy anticipated to reach approximately 86-years-old, it is evident that actions are necessary. Adjustments to healthcare and financial infrastructures must occur sooner rather than later, so that we as a country won't be blindsided once again by problems that have been staring us down for decades.

Life expectancy in...

1960

2015

2060

*projected



69.8 years old

78.8 years old

85.7 years old

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 National Population Projections, 2015-2060

ALEXIS PRAGIDES / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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Unmasking the athlete

JULIA LESNICKI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In the world of sports, athletes are often celebrated for their excellence on the field, court, track or in the pool. However, behind the glitz and glory lies a complex reality – the athlete identity theory. This theory suggests that athletes, particularly those at the collegiate or professional levels, deal with a unique set of challenges when it comes to making a new identity beyond their sport. One prominent aspect of this struggle is the difficulty many athletes face in finding meaningful hobbies outside of their athletic endeavors.

From a young age, aspiring sports stars invest countless hours into their skills, sacrificing personal time and often missing out on typical childhood experiences to pursue their passion. As a result, their identity becomes inseparable from the athlete persona, leaving little room for exploration of other interests.

One significant consequence of this athlete-centric identity is the challenge of finding alternative hobbies and passions. When the game is your life, branching out into uncharted territories can be scary. Athletes may feel a sense of displacement or even existential angst when confronted with the question, "Who am I without my sport?"

As an athlete who has come to the end of her 18-year-long swimming career, I found myself asking this question. Luckily, with the help of friends, family and mentors, I was able to branch out and find my hobbies while still in the sport. Many athletes are not lucky enough to do so and need a little more of a push for motivation to find their other fixes. I am still in the beginning stages of the retired athlete era, but I feel more prepared to face my new identity without swimming.

The intense training process, rigorous schedules and constant pressure to perform at the highest level contributes to the difficulty athletes face in seeking out

and maintaining other activities. Consequently, many athletes find themselves stuck in a cycle where their entire existence revolves around their sport, leaving little room for personal growth and self-discovery.

In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the need to address the athlete identity theory and encourage athletes to explore diverse interests. Sports organizations, coaches and mental health professionals are recognizing the importance of managing a balanced identity that extends beyond the confines of the game. Initiatives promoting holistic development, including mentorship programs and workshops on life skills, are emerging to help athletes navigate the challenges of identity formation.

Despite these positive strides, the stigma around athletes pursuing hobbies outside their sport persists. The societal expectation that athletes should be singularly focused on their craft can discourage them from exploring alternative passions.

It is crucial to break the myth that diversifying interests compromises athletic performance. On the contrary, engaging in activities outside of their sport can enhance an athlete's overall well-being. Hobbies provide a constructive outlet for stress, contribute to mental health and offer a sense of fulfillment that goes beyond the temporary highs and lows of competition.

To break free from the shackles of the athlete identity theory, athletes must be encouraged to embrace the pursuit of diverse passions. By fostering an environment that acknowledges and nurtures personal growth, we can empower athletes to discover and develop multifaceted identities, ensuring a healthier and more fulfilling life both on and off the field.

From here on out, it is time to focus on my career path and what the future holds for me. Whether I just keep swimming along the way or not, the sport will always be a part of my life.

TEMPO

Stay up-to-date with upcoming concerts

LANIE PATTERSON
TEMPO EDITOR

The music scene in Chicago is packed this semester! From Kane Brown to Yo-Yo Ma, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Grab your friends and mark your calendars - with tickets still available, you don't want to miss it!

Starting in February, the renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra will begin a series of Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich performances at the Chicago Symphony Center on Friday, Feb. 23.

Cold War Kids - an indie rock band - will be performing at the Salt Shed on the same day. Famous country artist, Sam Hunt, will be putting on a show at the Allstate Arena on Feb. 24, as well as Jon Batiste at the Riviera Theatre that same day.

In the beginning of March, Bryce Vine joins the lineup at the House of Blues on March 2. Zach Bryan arrives a few days later at the United Center, with performances lasting from March 5 to 7.

It is expected that these tickets will be hard to come by, so be sure to jump on the opportunity. The Eagles perform at the same venue on March 8 while Grouplove can be seen at the Riviera Theatre on March 16.

Olivia Rodrigo is coming to the United Center later in the month for two nights on March 19 and 20.

Dan and Shay are hosted by the same venue on March 22. A week later, Latin artist Bad Bunny is performing a highly anticipated show on March 28 and 29.

On March 29, LANY is coming to the Salt Shed, and I am quite excited about this one and already bought a ticket.

Kane Brown will be performing at Allstate Arena on April 12 followed by Nicki Minaj at the United Center on April 24 to 25. April continues to be full of a variety of events, appealing to a wide array of music listeners, including a few classical performances.

Yo-Yo Ma and Kathryn Stott will play on April 7 at the Chicago Symphony Center.

Towards the end of the semester, The 502s will be at the House of Blues and Jesse McCartney will be at the Vic Theatre on May 3.

James Arthur will be performing at the Riviera Theatre on May 7. John Oates will be at the City Winery on May 8.

If you are looking for a night-out rather than a formal concert setting, there are several 18+ and 21+ events

UPCOMING CONCERTS

FEB. 23

Cold War Kids at Salt Shed

FEB. 24

Sam Hunt at Allstate Arena

MAR. 2

Bryce Vine at House of Blues

OLIVIA BRZEK/ GRAPHIC DESIGNER

at a few clubs in the city, like Sound Bar, PRYSM, Beat Kitchen and House of Blues. These events range from artist-themed nights to in-house DJs, and are a change of pace from the typical live music shows. Be sure to be aware of age requirements of these events before purchasing

though, because these venues are typically strict.

Each month is also full of different tribute bands and smaller artists performing at a variety of venues.

The performances mentioned were more of the well-known artists coming to Chicago, but there are many

up-and-coming bands making their voices heard too. There is much fun to be had, music to be heard and dances to be danced, and this upcoming semester has plenty of opportunities for the Lewis community to partake in these activities.

Episode Eight: Finding the Lightning Thief

RAYNE GRABOWSKI
ASST. TEMPO EDITOR

The finale for season one of "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" Disney+ series was hardly one to disappoint. Fans everywhere were taken on a whirlwind as the original character trio journeyed across the U.S. to retrieve Zues' master bolt. Actors, crew, producers and everyone else involved deserve a huge round of applause for completing this on-screen adaption in a level fans doubted was possible after the movies ruined the hopes of all.

The script in the finale slightly changed from the books. While it is upsetting that the fan-favorite scorpion scene was cut from the finale, the effects on Luke's sword, Backbiter, were well worth it. Charlie Bushnell, the actor portraying Luke Castellan, nailed the scene with such accuracy. Riordan's casting choices shone through again, since Bushnell perfected the disgust Luke has for his father. Bushnell also brings to the surface all of the hurt Luke has felt, which isn't a focus in the original book. Despite the love for the books,

seeing the events through a new perspective brings a new complexity to the series.

Regardless of some minor changes in the script, the major plot events in the TV series stayed true to the novel. Specifically, one detail that remained in the series was the retrieval of Hades' Helm of Darkness.

This major event was cut from the movies - if those can even be described as part of the "Percy Jackson" universe, and disappointed many fans. The inclusion of this proves Riordan's determination to bring the fans an adaption they will love. Riordan succeeded with the first seven episodes and continued with the finale, evident by the edits of the finale that are already circulating around social media platforms.

Another scene that impressed everyone watching was Percy's fight with Ares. After being cut from the movie, Walker Scobell was so excited for the scene that he did it all himself, only calling in his stunt double for landing a body slam.

Adam Copeland, the actor playing the role of Ares, has a wrestling background. Having that skill set was particularly

useful for this scene. Both actors were determined to make this scene the best it could be. Scobell is a long time fan of the books, so doing the major battle at the end was a sentimental moment for him. Copeland has reported to admire Scobell's hard work and positive attitude while learning the complex fighting choreography. When Percy finally draws Ares' first blood, the accuracy of hitting the god's heel is a fact that book fans didn't miss.

Percy's good will is something touched upon many times in the series, but truly shows when he goes to Olympus despite the deadline passing.

At Olympus, Percy's realization of the Greek pantheon's values is heartbreaking. Percy, trying to tell Zeus what has happened, is threatened with death if he doesn't leave immediately.

Here, Posiedon makes an entrance, saving his son when Percy won't give up on telling Zeus the truth. This scene may seem simple to new fans, but those who have read the books know the complexity of this scene and the end of "The Titan's Curse," along with the



Percy, Annabeth, and Grover meet Ares on Santa Monica beach.

IMDb

end of "The Last Olympian" (both within the same series.) Hades is still down in the Underworld, with the questing trio only interacting with Hades through Alecto in the finale. By providing this basis of the big three gods, Riordan sets up the following seasons perfectly.

Posiedon was also able to take on the parenting role that the fanbase has recognized him for many times. Poseidon also asks Zeus about his daughter, Thalia, when he remarks that

Percy shouldn't have been born, paralleling the sassy nature that Percy shows in the series.

The world of "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" has been enticing new fans from the time it was released, and the show has brought forth a new wave of fans to enjoy the world Riordan has created for the first time. The show is definitely worth the watch - but be sure to click on the TV series, not the movies. If that advice is followed, there will be no regret.

TikTok making musicals “Epic”

RAYNE GRABOWSKI
ASST. TEMPO EDITOR

Social media platforms such as TikTok have allowed songwriters to share and be recognized for their work. Due to their accessibility, platforms have made it possible for up-and-coming artists to make a name for themselves, and in some cases, start touring independently without a label's promotion. These creators include Jorge Rivera-Herrans who has used social media to release sections of his musical entitled “Epic.”

“Epic: The Musical” has a base in Greek mythology. Specifically, the musical is based on the story of the “Odyssey” by Homer. Rivera-Herrans began writing “Epic” in a college dorm room in 2019. After working hard for two years, he created the TikTok page for the musical in Jan. 2021. The social media page helped create a fanbase where viewers expressed their love for the songs and Rivera-Herrans's modern touch to the ancient stories. Sharing his work online helped Rivera-Herrans gain more traction as he hired actors and actresses from around the globe to produce the songs in an Original Cast Recording.

Rivera-Herrans fills the lead role of Odysseus, bringing a

new sense of emotion into this ancient hero. Armando Julian fills the role of Eurylochus, Steven Dookie as Polites, Tegan Earley plays Athena, Steven Rodriguez as Poseidon, along with several others in the ancient storyline. Everyone in the cast is extremely talented. The songs highlight the strengths and flexibility of their voices, allowing for strong belts along with emotional falsettos. Rivera-Herrans posted audition excerpts online and allowed anyone to audition with just a duet of his video or an email to an official account for “Epic.” The inclusion of the fans during this usually closed-off process boosted the popularity of this project more, allowing fans to sing karaoke and audition for their favorite mythological characters.

In 2022, the first section – or saga, as Rivera-Herrans calls them – was released to streaming platforms on Christmasday.

An unexpected gift to his fans: the first five songs in the musical. The Troy Saga was released first, followed by the Cyclops Saga and the Ocean Saga. The most recent saga, the Circe Saga, was released on Feb. 14, 2024. Five more sagas are predicted to follow; the Underworld Saga, Thunder Saga, Wisdom Saga, Vengeance



Rivera-Herrans poses next to his piano.

Epicthemusical.com

Saga and Ithaca Saga. Release dates for these have not been announced as of Feb. 2024.

“Epic” has been met with overwhelming support so far. “Ruthlessness” from the Ocean Saga has received over five million streams on Spotify. In the Troy Saga, which was released back in 2022, the “Warrior of the Mind” track featuring Earley and Rivera-Herrans has received just over 32 million streams on Spotify. As of February 2024,

the musical's TikTok page has nearly 800,000 followers. Rivera-Herrans has also made a Discord community for fans, which has just over 37,000 members. In other words, mythology fans all over are loving his work.

“Epic: The Musical” holds lots of promise. The songs are catchy, and Rivera-Herrans' analysis of the songs online are quite entertaining for anyone, whether music terminology is deeply understood or

not. Rivera-Herrans also posts several joking videos surrounding the show, making the music more endearing while addressing the funny comments he sees. Starting with the community on its TikTok page, “Epic: the Musical” is making its way to the top. Once fans can get their hands on the full original cast recording – well, it wouldn't be surprising if it gets onstage quickly.

Local Eats with Lanie



Looking for a new place to study off-campus? Look no further than Crema Coffee Roasters! With locations in Lockport, Plainfield, North Aurora and Tinley Park, this coffee company is accessible to both commuters and students living on campus. The most convenient location in relation to the University is located in downtown Lockport, just seven minutes away over the Ninth Street bridge.

The company opened its first location in downtown Plainfield in 2017 and has continued to grow in success ever since. According to Crema's website, the company is intentional with each space

in order to create a place that is more than just a coffee shop. Crema has a “dedication to community, fostering an inviting environment that sparks collaboration and shared positivity where everyone can come together to enjoy exceptional coffee.”

Benedetta Luccone, a sophomore political science major on the tennis team, has nothing but good things to say about Crema Coffee. Her drink of choice is the cappuccino with almond milk and she likes the avocado toast with eggs because it is “a good quality meal.” Luccone goes to the Lockport location everyday after tennis practice because “the coffee they make there reminds me of what I drink at home” in Italy. She rates Crema a 10/10, which means a lot coming from someone from Italy, a country known for its espresso.

Another coffee connoisseur at Lewis, Hareen Mutta,

has a glowing review for Crema Coffee. Mutta is a graduate student working on his computer science degree, always with a Crema Coffee in hand. His favorite drink from Crema is the cappuccino with almond milk and hazelnut, and he likes their cookies and avocado toast with eggs, like Luccone. Mutta is a regular at Crema Coffee, starting out every morning with a meal at the Lockport location. What keeps him going back is “the quality of the coffee beans, the cleanliness of the place, the people and my love for coffee.” He also gives this place a 10/10 and recommends that everyone tries the cappuccino.

After visiting both the Lockport and Plainfield locations, I can attest that the service is great and the atmosphere is always welcoming. Lately I've been into matcha lattes, and the one

KREMA COFFEE

At Crema seems to do it best, with the perfect earthy yet sweet flavor. Adding raspberry or vanilla flavoring to the drink really upscales the flavor too. Their pastries and baked goods are scrumptious and you can't go wrong with whatever you choose. However, I would highly recommend the white chocolate raspberry scone.

Other highlights on their menu include the brown sugar bacon gouda breakfast sandwich, the spinach and artichoke toast and their s'mores toast. Their menu has tastes and options for everyone, and there are non-coffee options like apple cider, craft lemonade and teas. The menu also changes with the seasons. Some of the wintery options include peppermint, snowball (white mocha and coconut) and spritz cookie (traditional almond butter holiday cookie).

As part of their commitment to the community, Crema offers the opportunity for groups to raise money for organizations, clubs, teams, etc., by selling bags of their coffee. The company also rents out the Plainfield location to host small events like bridal or baby showers and work meetings. For casual get-togethers and studying, any location would be perfect for Lewis students – you just need to find a comfortable seat.

Each of the four Crema locations do an exceptional job at embodying their mission to create an environment where everyone can come and enjoy a treat in good company. The fact that there are multiple Lewis students who are regulars at this place should speak for itself. Crema deserves to be a part of the Lewis community and experience, and should be shared!

CAMPUS LIFE

Club Spotlight: Black Student Union

JADA LAW
REPORTER

The month of February is dedicated as Black History Month, a time to celebrate the culture and achievements of Black people, despite trials and tribulations they came to face throughout history.

However, acknowledging the rich history and culture of the Black community is important not only for the month of February, but year round as well. Doing so gives Black people an opportunity to develop a closer connection with their culture and also gives those who are a part of other racial/ethnic backgrounds the chance to establish an understanding of Black culture. For those aiming to do so, but can't seem to find where to start, look no further than Black Student Union (BSU.)

BSU is a club that emphasizes creating a safe and inclusive space for Black and Brown students on campus with the goal of establishing a sense of community in the culture.

Jasmine Pryor, junior art major and the President of BSU stated that "students should come to

BSU to learn more about the culture, meet new people and create an inclusive space with us." She also highlighted that although the club was made in order to represent Black and Brown communities, all are welcome to join.

BSU hopes to create a community where students feel supported, free to express themselves and a place where they can leave their worries at the door. Pryor mentions that this helps "build family connections while away from your family at home."

Freshman computer science major Micheal Holt shared that "I love BSU because it gives me a chance to interact with my community on a biweekly basis. Being around my culture has made my life better."

The emphasis on creating a community in Black Student Union gives people a positive feeling and the ability to feel a sense of comfortability while on campus.

The club holds their meetings every other Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The club also will be hosting various events throughout the month of February. Some of their most recent events in-



Photo courtesy of: Lewis Black Student Union

Black Student Union E-board members Kristle Garrison, Jasmine Pryor, Justyce Watson and Jayme Momie celebrate Black History Month.

cluded a networking event with some of Lewis' Black and Brown faculty/staff, titled "Black People Talking." They also hosted an event called "Fulfilling the Dream" and have an upcoming

event on Feb. 27 where they will be hosting a field trip to a Bulls game with Student Engagement.

For questions or more information, feel free to contact BSU at bsu@lewisu.edu. To stay up-

dated on meetings or upcoming information, follow the organization's Instagram at @lewisu_bsu and join the GroupMe chat linked in the Instagram bio.

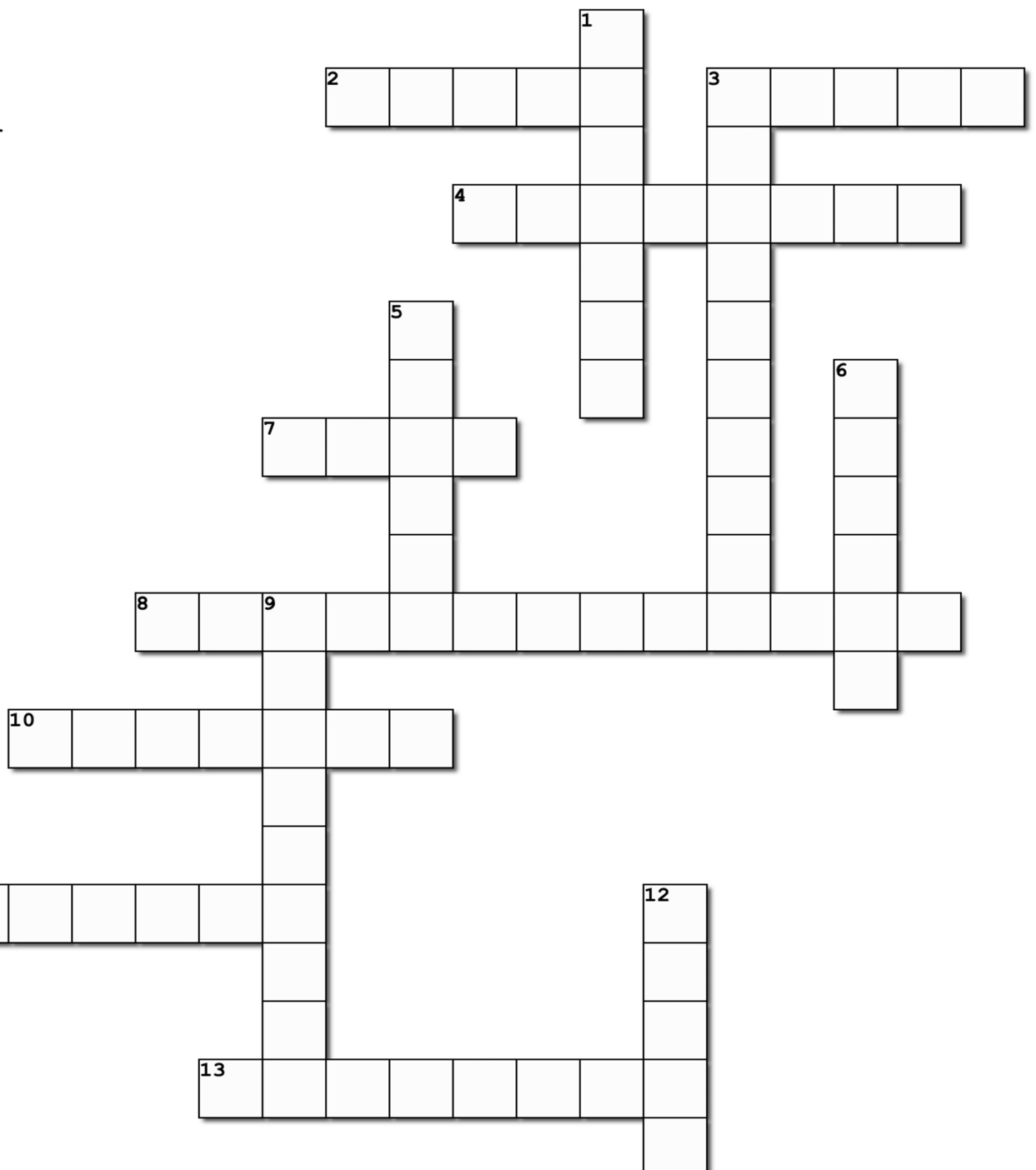
Campus Crossword

Across

2. Headline halftime performer.
3. An object shot putters use to practice their form.
4. Tyler Avenatti is the College of _____ Senator for the Student Senate.
7. The area on Ares' body that Percy draws first blood from in the battle scene between the two.
8. Where Olivia Rodrigo will perform in March.
10. Type of regional Latin music Erick Hernandez has been focusing on.
11. Who caught and threw a touchdown in the Super Bowl?
13. One of the wintry flavors offered at Krema, with coconut and white mocha.

Down

1. First name of fashion designer that created Taylor Swift's jacket.
3. The injury that forced Baccam to change her mindset.
5. How many school records did the swimmers break at conference?
6. The last name of the actress portraying Athena in 'Epic: The Musical.'
9. Best Buddies event called Spread the Word for _____.
12. Which Chicago basketball team is BSU going watch?



Rules:

- Complete the crossword by reading the stories
- Return completed puzzle to room JP-012 before March 4th
- First 3 winners to present a completed puzzle win a gift card

Student Senate: The voice of students

MICHAEL SACK
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

The Lewis Student Senate serves as the facilitator between the faculty, staff and the student body. The senate connects the Provost, Dr. Christopher Sindt, with any and all students with their concerns about the university. Besides serving as a voice for the students, they provide each resident or commuter the chance to attend different events that allow each individual the chance to bolster their resumes or step away from the classroom with fun activities.

Each senator is voted into their position, with there currently being 19 filled seats out of a possible 25 total. Each senator offers their own unique cultural backgrounds, perspectives and opinions, but also come from different fields of studies. With each senator representing their respective departments.

The senate does not shy away from collaborating with different departments and services on campus. For instance, the Student Senate collaborates with Career Services to help students build resumes. They also partner with Sodexo to provide various coffee flavors to try. Additionally, they work with the Rec Center to host different tailgates in support of Lewis athletics and the Student Wellness Center, offering game nights where students have the chance to win free giveaways or prizes.



Photo courtesy of: Student Senate

The Lewis University 2024 Student Senate pose together with the statue of the Christian Brother.

Additionally, the club provides an annual town hall for any and all students to attend. The town hall meeting taking place on Feb. 21 at 12 to 1 p.m., will be attended by several different representatives of different departments on campus, for the student body to voice their concerns, provide suggestions and ask questions directly to the staff that run the university.

In their own words through their mission statement, "The

mission of the Lewis University Student Senate shall be to promote the development of the student body through the pursuit of wisdom, justice, knowledge, fidelity and association. We shall exist to represent the voice of student opinions through representation of constituents, as well as the entire student body, in order to uphold, as well as improve the quality of life for students at Lewis University."

The wide variety of these individuals allows for a wide range of ideas and opinions to be brought to the table during any decision making process. An example of one of these proud members is Tyler Avenatii, a senior sports management major and the College of Business Senator.

"As a student senator it is important to be able to help bridge relationships between the student body, staff, faculty

and administrators. There are many things that we are able to discuss and bring forward that can help make campus a better learning environment," said Avenatii.

If you have any questions or inquiries about becoming a Student Senate Senator, please email LUSSPresident@lewisu.edu with your name, major and reason(s) as to why you would like to join the senate.

Music department hosts spring concert

MICHAEL SACK
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Lewis' Music Department is excited to showcase their talented musicians during the 2024 Music Department Spring Concert. The event will be held in the St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall on Mar. 4 at 7p.m. Entry to the concert is free and will feature the incredible talent of several ensembles and individual student performers.

The first of its kind this spring, this event stood typically as a holiday concert where the department was looking to add different elements each showcasing the diversity of the group. With the holiday spirit in season during the original concerts, the department was limited to music that was fitting to the Christmas spirit.

Dr. Mike McFerron, a music professor, composer-in-residence and the Chair of the Lewis Music Department, believes that, "The holiday concert is centered around Christmas music. So, we decided it would be interesting to see what we could do in the

Spring, where we could really showcase all of our musical diversity in our Department."

The upcoming concert promises a dynamic show featuring performances from the Chamber Choir, Gospel Choir, Rock Band and Jazz Band. The guitar studio will look to rock the audience with renditions of two different pieces, including the classic, "Hotel California," by the Eagles.

Original compositions will also take center stage, with a world premiere by computer science and music major Ethan Myers, performed by two saxophone students. The event will also present a debut corrido song by freshman computer science and music major Erick Hernandez. The event will conclude with original performances by Kevin Cousins and Jake Kobler, ensuring the audience will enjoy a memorable evening of diverse musical talent.

"The most exciting thing about this event for me personally is getting out of my comfort zone. I've focused mostly on regional Mexican music and performances exclusively in the genre," said

Hernandez. "The audiences are completely different so that's something to look forward to. I'm still working out which one of my songs I'll be performing currently. Overall I just can't wait for people to see what all of the students have been working on."

The entire show is targeted towards what is known as a kaleidoscope concert, the idea being that the audience is not waiting for each performer to take the stage one at a time. Instead, everything is back to back, allowing the audience to be fully encaptured within the new sounds and pieces they will be experiencing.

"I am excited to hear everybody, but we have been working really hard with our Gospel Choir in particular," stated McFerron when going more in-depth about his thoughts on the event. "The original group had only been offered as a student activity but now is a class students can take. The new director Kimberly Smith, has done a fantastic job in leading the small group to big performances."

Getting to be the first to hear brand new pieces on campus



OLIVIA BRZEK / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

brings across a special opportunity towards music enthusiasts or even for those who do not have a background in music. The Music Department

welcomes all types of students, faculty and staff for a night worth listening to.



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You can apply via the **myLewis** portal on the Records and Registration page.

Application to a 4+1 Baccalaureate-to-Master's program does not replace official application and admission to the graduate program. Application must be made to the graduate program consistent with University policy as outlined in the graduate catalog.

Questions? See your Academic Advisor for more information.

Gracie Shultz: A two-sport athlete

JADA HARVEY
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

According to NCAA.org, only about 3.9 percent of high school women go on to compete in collegiate volleyball, and only 1.1 percent of those play Division II. The time and effort it takes to accomplish that milestone is impressive enough, but Gracie Shultz took it a step further.

Shultz joined the women's volleyball team in the spring of 2023 as a junior transfer from Illinois Central College. Her passions lie in her position as middle hitter and her degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education. For a year, she balanced the two and lived the crazy, busy student-athlete life. That was until coach Brent Graham, known as Red, introduced himself.

In the fall of 2023, Shultz and her teammate would go to the gym in the evenings and Red would pass by and see them lifting. "He would say 'wow you look really powerful, have you ever thrown shot put or discus before?' and I said 'never in my life.'" Shultz was surprised when Red continued and offered for her to

come throw during a practice and see if she was any good at it. "I [thought], 'Oh, ok. If I get the opportunity to try something new, why not?'"

After some emails and communication with women's volleyball coach, Lorelee Smith, Shultz walked into her first track and field practice. She recalled that when she got there, "[Red] just said 'well, let's have you throw' and then put a shot put in my hand and said 'just throw it' and I said 'what?'"

Although a "throw" is commonly thought of as one in baseball, shot put is very different. Compared to a five to 5.5 oz baseball, or a seven oz softball, a women's shot put is 8.8 lbs. As a result a shot put throw is more like a very fast lift and push. Shultz described it as first getting into an athletic position, low with staggered feet. The thrower starts facing away from where they are throwing while "your free arm is out in front [of you] and the shot put is in the other. You tuck the shot put under your neck, with your fingers pressed as hard as you can into your neck. Then you just turn, step, bring your hips around and

shove the ball," said Shultz.

To perfect form, practice involves exercises like chair turns. "You hold a chair instead of an actual weight to [perfect] form. You have to make sure it's straight and level," said Shultz. By holding the chair out with both arms extended and turning, the athletes practice keeping the object level. This helps them learn to stay in a balanced position when they turn, not fluctuating up or down.

Shultz described the movement as "more like dancing. Just because there's such a rhythm to it. You have to know the steps and perfect the steps." She said it's similar to volleyball, since you have to have correct footwork to move around the court, as well. She added, "I feel like a ballerina sometimes. I'll make little noises when I turn and throw. I just have fun."

Aside from the experience of the new sport, Shultz mentioned that it's nice to switch up the scenery and meet new people, too. The shot put crew consists of five people, including Shultz. She raved about her new teammates, saying, "I just think it's really fun. The team is really fun. The



MATTHEW CARLSON / PHOTOGRAPHER

Gracie Shultz winds up to throw at track and field practice.

five of us are so funny. I love it." During drills, the five shot put athletes poke fun at each other, crack jokes and laugh the whole time. Not to mention that her coach is "hilarious and so understanding." Although Shultz has her

hours planned to a tee, and her shoulder is sure to get sore, Shultz believes that the work is worth it for such a great atmosphere and the experience of playing two Division II collegiate sports.

Swimming breaks records at GLVC: Setting new standards

GRANT DORSEY
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The men's and women's swim team traveled to Evansville, Ind. to compete in the GLVC Conference Championships from Feb. 6-10. The Flyers competed at the Deaconess Aquatic Center, also known as the "Lily King Pool," named after famous breaststroke Olympian. Coming into the tournament, the men's team boasted a 9-0 record, while the women finished the year with an equally impressive record of 10-0-1. To say the team did amazing is an understatement, as 12 school records were broken during the GLVC Championships.

On the men's side, sophomore Kirill Sidorko, broke two school records, swimming a 1:47.78 in the 200-yard individual medley (IM) and 3:50.88 in the 400-yard IM. Freshman from Egypt, Amhed Ismail, swam the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 53.38. Senior Nico Jacinto, breaking the 100-yard backstroke record, which was last broken in 2014, with a time of 46.92.

Moving on to relays, Jacinto, Ismail, Jordan Yip and Misha Semenov swam a 1:27.00 in the 200-yard medley relay. Additionally, the 400-yard medley relay, made up of Jacinto, Ismail, Yip and Otavio Cunha, recorded a time of 3:12.02. Lastly, Ismail, Cunha, Jacinto and Semenov finished the 200-yard freestyle relay at 1:19.52.

On the women's side, Larissa Alves broke her own record in the 200-yard IM by one tenth of a second, with a time of 2:04.20. The 200-yard medley relay team, composed of Ionna Palla, Magdalena Wlodarkiewicz, Aubrey Fischer and Riley Byers, clocked in at 1:42.83. The women accomplished another feat by breaking the school record in the 400-yard medley relay with a time of 3:45.95. Wlodarkiewicz recorded a time of 1:03.07 in the 100-yard breaststroke, breaking a 10-year old school record. Finally, in the 200-yard freestyle relay, Luna Schafer, Wlodarkiewicz, Alves and Byers finished with a time of 1:33.67.

At the end of the championships, the mens and wo-

mens teams both finished in fourth place. The men improved from their sixth place finish in 2023, scoring 1,048 points this year. As for the women, they matched their finish from last year, but scored 86 more points finishing with a total of 945 points. The fourth-place finish achieved by both teams marks their best performance in Lewis history.

During the GLVC Championships, members of both teams earned a total of 41 B cuts to the NCAA DII Championships. This is the highest amount the Flyers have earned in school history. The women's 200-yard medley relay and 200-yard freestyle relay teams earned NCAA DII Provisional cuts. "I am very proud of our team and the hard work that has gone into our success from our swimmers and coaches. We have worked extremely hard to bring in the right people to our program to create a team filled with talent and determination. It makes me very proud to see this begin to present itself for everyone to see," say head coach Evan Sholudko.



Photo courtesy of: Meghan Bandy

Coach Evan Sholudko won GLVC Men's Coach of the Year 2024.

Sholudko earned his first GLVC Men's Coach of the Year title, which was voted on by his peers. This is Sholudko's first award in his three year tenure at Lewis University. "I feel very lucky to work with such a great group of athletes and I believe our historic performance at GLVC Championships is just the beginning of what we will be and can be moving forward. I am very excited for our swim-

mers competing in the upcoming NCAA Championships and the future that lies beyond it," said Sholudko.

The Flyers are not finished swimming this season as the team will take part in the University of Chicago Last Chance meet from Feb. 22-23. After that, the NCAA DII Championships will take place from Mar. 12-16 in Geneva, Ohio at the SPIRE Institute - Aquatics Center.

Baccam describes softball in one word

JADA HARVEY
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Failure. The word may come across as very negative, but freshman Kadence Baccam chose the word to describe the game of softball.

The moments that the sport is known for – a diving catch or a sliding or soaring home run – are rare, while a swing-and-a-miss and receiving an out are ruling obstacles. It's a game of failure.

However, what makes the game worth playing to Baccam is this intimidating word many people shy away from.

Baccam elaborated on the concept using the example of batting, "If you go 30/100, that's a great batting average but statistically that's terrible.

In softball it's amazing." In contrast to, say, basketball where a good shot percentage is 50 percent or above, softball players technically fail for most of the game.

Even though this sounds like it could be very discouraging, Baccam accompanied it with this sentiment: "You

fail more than you succeed, but failure leads to success. You learn through failure.

If you never fail you'd never learn anything. Good things take time."

Good things take time, a lesson that every athlete must learn. Progress is not immediate, it is worked for.

If not worked for, born of patience. So, aside from striking out or miss-throwing a pass, Baccam explained a personal experience that she felt taught her a lot in her career, and it came about after a long season of waiting.

The setback was a concussion she suffered in eighth grade. The injury happened outside of her sport, but it affected it just the same, restricting her from playing for three months.

After months of recovery, she returned to her sport, ready to go. However, playing again was not as easy as she hoped.

She said, "Coming back after that, I felt like I lost all my talent.

I failed so many times and lost my patience so many times that I decided I needed a break from softball.

I took my fall season off freshman year." It turned out that the injury was not the hardest part.

The blow hit hard. But after time spent waiting, reflecting and gaining support, Baccam realized something.

If she wanted to overcome her obstacle, her mindset needed to change, "After getting my mind right and being with the right coaching staff and teammates who supported me, I realized failing leads to great things and I had the best season of my career that [following] year."

Without these challenges, Baccam wouldn't have come to this point in her personal growth.

Failure not only leads to just success, it leads to growth and lessons learned.

Every softball player, and every athlete, needs those moments in order to change for the better.

Even though failure can make many think of hard times, it makes Baccam think of perseverance and endurance.

To her, softball contains



PHOTO COURTESY OF: KADENCE BACCAM

Baccam sets up at bat against Heartland Community College.

great amounts of this and requires athletes who will not be discouraged from it. "I think mentally you have to have a super strong mindset when you play softball because failure in general isn't a good thing and in soft-

ball it happens frequently."

These athletes not only have to face strike after strike, out after out, failure after failure, they have to accept it every time and work through it. And in the end, it makes every success that much more worth it.

PLAYER PROFILE



Sophomore | Business Analytics Major

NICO PAULA

STATISTICS

- Average of 2.48 digs per set
- 2x National Libero of Week from Off The Block
- 1x MIVA Defensive Player of the Week

What's the hardest part about being a Libero?

"You have to be super vocal and call out everything you see. Coach Friend always says that communicating on the court is a skill for a volleyball player to have because you have to be constantly pointing out what you're seeing. Another hard thing would be how demanding it is on the body, lots of diving and throwing yourself, which is why I wear two knee pads on each knee on top of wearing elbow pads!"

What is one thing you love about your position or just the game of volleyball?

"I love the fact that being a libero requires you to be energetic. I will never get yelled at for cheering, celebrating, or getting my teammates excited after a play. Getting a dig on a hard-driven ball is also a great feeling because it takes all the satisfaction away from the hitter."

What is your favorite memory with your team this season?

"My favorite memory with the team so far would be pulling off the upset against BYU in a five-set match. We were looking to prove to people that we were [a] team that you wouldn't want to mess with, and after coming off a close loss to UCLA, it made the win so much sweeter. Five-set matches always feel incredible coming off a win, and I remember walking off that court just being so grateful that I was able to do it with such a great group of guys!"

Describe volleyball in one word and explain why you would choose that word.

"If I were to describe volleyball in one word, it would be effort. No matter what you're doing in court, if you give 110 percent, then nobody can question how hard you are working. I've always lived by this philosophy and take pride and put everything I have when I play because I never want to leave with a regret after a match."



Chiefs become kings in Vegas

COLLIN MCCARTHY
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

The NFL's biggest game of the year was earlier this month in a place like no other: Las Vegas. This year's match up featured some familiar faces. The Kansas City Chiefs entered the contest looking to be the first franchise to win it all in back-to-back years since the New England Patriots in 2004 and 2005. Their adversaries? The San Francisco 49ers. The 49ers looked to put a stop to the recent dominance that the Chiefs have had over the last five years. Not only were the Chiefs looking to win back to back championships, but this was their fourth appearance since 2020.

Both teams came out of the gate with an all out effort. Their respective defenses really put on a show. The 49ers defense was getting to Patrick Mahomes, the Chiefs quarterback, a feat that not many teams dur-

ing this postseason can say they achieved. The Chiefs defense also put up a stone wall against the Niners and it wasn't until the early part of the second quarter that the first points were scored. Jake Moody, the 49ers kicker, kicked a championship record 55-yard field goal.

The Niners would continue to be the team that found success on offense. With a trick play where San Francisco wide receiver Jauan Jennings threw a 21-yard touchdown to Christian McCaffrey with just over four minutes left in the second quarter. That was just enough time for Kansas City to put together a drive that would have the KC kicker, Harrison Butker, put three on the board with a 28-yard field goal just before the end of the first half.

The Chiefs finally found their groove on offense starting with the ball for the second half. Butker topped Moody's earlier record breaking field goal

attempt with one of his own scoring from 57 yards out to cut the lead to four points. Marquez Scantling-Valdez would find a Mahomes pass in the endzone for a 16-yard touchdown with 2:28 left in the third quarter to give Kansas City their first lead of the contest.

It would not take long for the 49ers to answer as Jauan Jennings was the recipient of a touchdown pass this time from 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy. However, in a twist of fate, Moody's extra point attempt got blocked only giving San Francisco three points. Both teams would trade field goals. Moody gave the 49ers a three-point lead with just under two minutes left. Mahomes and co. marched their way down the field and Butker found the up-rights with just four seconds left on the clock forcing overtime.

The 49ers won the coin toss and elected to receive the ball to start overtime. Their march



NFL.COM

Patrick Mahomes celebrates Super Bowl win in Vegas.

down field was halted and they would call Moody's number on last time as he gave the 49ers their last lead as Chiefs got their chance to win. With just three seconds left on the clock, Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs scored a touchdown off a Mecole Hardman Jr. receiving touchdown to secure their 25-22 Victory and their second Championship in a row.

After a season full of ups and downs, Mahomes and the Chiefs figured out their formula to win when it mattered. Mahomes, in his young career, is now drawing comparisons to Tom Brady, the greatest quarterback in the history of the NFL. Entering the next season, Mahomes has the opportunity to do something that Brady never did. Win three championships in a row.

SPORTS RECAP

[1/26 - 2/14]

TENNIS

- 2/3 @ Walsh University Tiffin, Ohio L: 2-5
- 2/4 @ Tiffin University Tiffin, Ohio L: 2-5
- 2/10 vs. Eastern Illinois University Dekalb, Ill. W: 4-3
- 2/10 @ Northern Illinois University Dekalb, Ill. L: 0-7

BASKETBALL

- 1/27 vs. University of Indianapolis Romeoville, Ill. W: 82-81
- 2/1 @ Maryville University St. Louis, Mo. L: 62-63
- 2/3 @ Missouri S&T Rolla, Mo. L: 69-73
- 2/8 vs. Truman State University Romeoville, Ill. L: 59-60
- 2/10 vs. Upper Iowa University Romeoville, Ill. L: 93-76

VOLLEYBALL

- 1/26 vs. George Mason University Romeoville, Ill. W: 3-0
- 1/27 vs. Long Island University Romeoville, Ill. L: 1-3
- 1/31 @ Lindenwood University St. Charles, Mo. W: 3-1
- 2/2 @ McKendree University Lebanon, Ill. W: 3-1
- 2/7 vs. Ohio State University Romeoville, Ill. L: 0-3
- 2/14 vs. Loyola University Romeoville, Ill. L: 0-3

LACROSSE

- 2/10 @ Maryville University St. Louis, Mo. L: 5-13

SWIMMING

- 1/28 - Butler Invite Indianapolis, Ind. 4th place 792 pts.
- 2/6-10 - GLVC Championships Evansville, Ind. 4th place 1048 pts.

BASKETBALL

- 1/27 vs. University of Indianapolis Romeoville, Ill. W: 79-64
- 2/1 @ Maryville University St. Louis, Mo. L: 66-73
- 2/3 @ Missouri S&T Rolla, Mo. W: 72-63
- 2/8 vs. Truman State University Romeoville, Ill. W: 71-57
- 2/10 vs. Upper Iowa University Romeoville, Ill. W: 67-63

SWIMMING

- 1/28 - Butler Invite Indianapolis, Ind. 5th place 643 pts.
- 2/6-10 - GLVC Championships Evansville, Ind. 4th place 945 pts.

MEN'S SPORTS

WOMEN'S SPORTS